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March 23, 2004      LB 943, 1045

SENATOR SMITH: I close. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question before the body is, shall LB 1045 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. You heard it. Sorry about the inconveniences. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 1045.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 1045 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next bill.

CLERK: LB 943 by Senator Thompson. (Read title.) Introduced on January 9, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM2935, Legislative Journal page 1024.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, to open.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 943 is a bill that was brought after an interim study that was...had a hearing last fall by the Judiciary Committee; was brought to me by a group of people who work with sex offenders, their victims, and other family members dealing with the issues of sexual assault against children, but particularly working with adults who were the victims of sexual assault as children. This bill is my priority bill and it will follow a number of other bills that were put into the package and they all deal with sexual assault issues and most of them deal with sexual assault of children. This bill would lift the statute of limitations. This is something that's happened in several other states and it is the result of the research and understanding that we have of this crime and how it affects people in their adult life. Currently, the statute of limitations on this...these offenses is seven years or within seven years of the victim's 16th birthday. And what we know now is that a lot of people don't come to terms with this until later in life. Sometimes it's because they're still dependent on the person who may be victimizing them. Sometimes it's because they are afraid. They don't have a level of maturity or the ability to